

With reference to the presently claimed invention as recited in claim 1, the Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully consider the meaning of “laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together” as recited in the following language of claim 1:

“A fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell with laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together,...”

The “laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together” means the structure composed of the lamellae, and the structure can be obtained for example by spray drying of the exfoliated titania sol, as disclosed in the specification including at page 8, lines 18-27 and particularly at page 8, lines 15-17.

Additionally, please refer to Figure 1 which shows the fine hollow powder 3 comprising a titanium oxide shell with laminated titanium oxide particles 2 (see specification at page 8, lines 24- 27) stuck together.

The Office Action appears to imply that in addition to the claimed structure composed of the lamellae, the structure also comprises a layered structure. However, as supported by the aforementioned disclosures in the specification, the claimed structure is composed of the lamellae.

With respect to the cited reference, EP '594, this reference discloses hollow particles obtained by spray drying. However, the material employed in spray drying is significantly different because titanium tetrachloride was used as the material and it is not possible to obtain the laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together of the presently claimed invention.

In order to determine D/T , as recited in the present claim 1, it is necessary to know the degree of packing in addition to the bulk density and the particle diameter. Since there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the bulk density in EP '594, it is not correct to consider the ratio of outer diameter (D) to thickness (T), D/T , is necessary within 50 to 5,000 as recited in claim 1.

The presently claimed invention is no where disclosed, suggested, made predictable nor resulting from any reason to try and make the presently claimed invention with a reasonable expectation of success.

Accordingly, the applicant submits that the presently claimed invention is fully allowable under both 35 US 102(b) and further, under 35 USC 103(a) in view of the prior art.

In view of the above, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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